

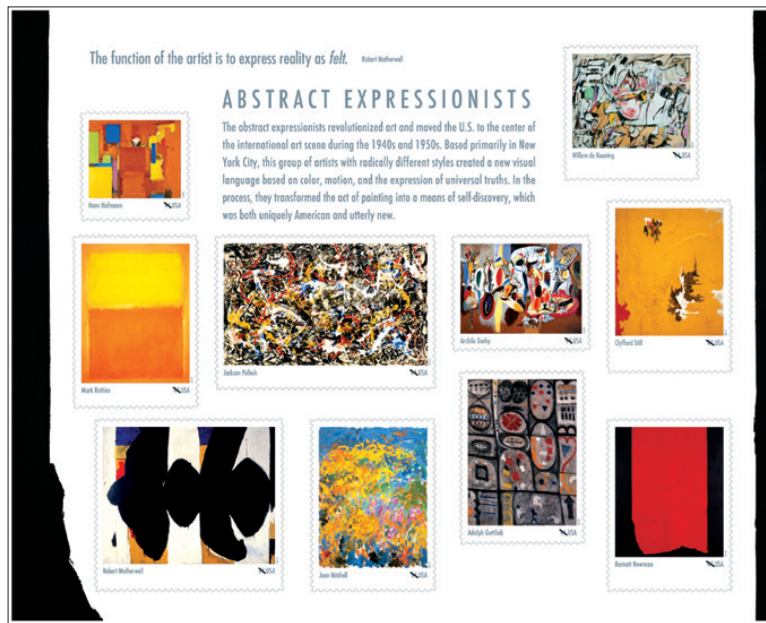
Abstract Art on March 11 U.S. Issue

On March 11 in Buffalo, N.Y., the USPS issued a 44¢ Abstract Expressionist souvenir sheet of ten pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) stamps of ten stamps.

In celebration of the abstract expressionist artists of the 20th Century, Art Director Ethel Kessler and noted art historian Jonathan Fineberg selected ten paintings to feature on this colorful pane. Kessler used elements from Barnett Newman's *Achilles* (1952) to frame the stamps.

The arrangement of the stamps is meant to suggest paintings hanging on a gallery wall. The pane also features selvaige text and a quotation by Robert Motherwell. Each stamp includes the artist's name and text on the reverse that identifies the painting and briefly tells something about the artist.

The artists and their artworks featured on the stamps are: Hans Hoffman "The Golden Wall", Mark Rothko "Orange and Yellow", Robert Motherwell, "Elegy to the Spanish Republic #34", Jackson Pollock "Convergence", Joan Mitchell "La Grande Vallée 0", Arshile Gorky,



"The Liver is the Cock's Comb", Adolph Gottlieb "Romanesque Façade". Willem de Kooning "Asheville", Clyfford Still "1948-C", and Barnett Newman "Achilles".

First Day Cancellations

We do not yet have the address to which first day covers should be sent. The deadline for cancellation requests is May 12, 2010, so there is time; however, local post offices will only be receiving 15% of their standard commemorative distribution, and this is further reduced by the fact that these are sheetlets of ten different stamps, so collectors will want to make their purchases as soon as they can.

We will provide the FDC address as soon as we receive it from the USPS.

The Abstract Expressionist souvenir sheets were printed by Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd. using an offset process. A total of 30 million stamps were printed. There are no plate numbers printed on the front or the reverse of the sheet.